



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue #7

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

8 July 2010

Pest Alert!!!

See the section below under soybean called 'Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid' for important information about an invasive species now on soybeans in our state.

Pest Patrol Hotline

There is a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear (I am #7 on the listing of specialists). The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Lee, Sumter, and Kershaw Counties, reported last week that the main problem being encountered is resistant pigweed.

Another contact reported that he is "getting a few calls about aphids/greasy cotton on older cotton that is 'bolling up' in the Pee Dee. Populations seemed to flare last week before rains. Aphids have survived acephate spray...be patient and wait for the fungus."

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported last week that he is "seeing spots of aphids in cotton." Charles also pointed out that they "had a few good drenching rains in Calhoun County" last week and that "there is a lot of fresh tender growth showing up on plants now". More aphids are showing up in places this week.

Cotton Situation

As of 6 July 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 55% of the crop as squaring, a little ahead of where we were last year at 46% and the 5-yr average of 47%. About 7% of the crop has set bolls, also ahead of 0% for last year and 3% for the 5-yr average. Conditions were described as 6% excellent, 52% good, 38% fair, 4% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. Overall moisture levels in the state were described as 12% very short, 37% short, 49% adequate, and 2% surplus. These levels are more positive than those of last week.

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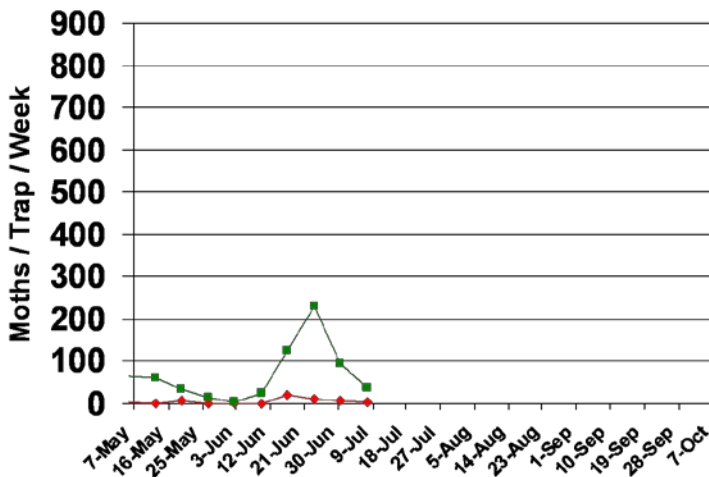
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



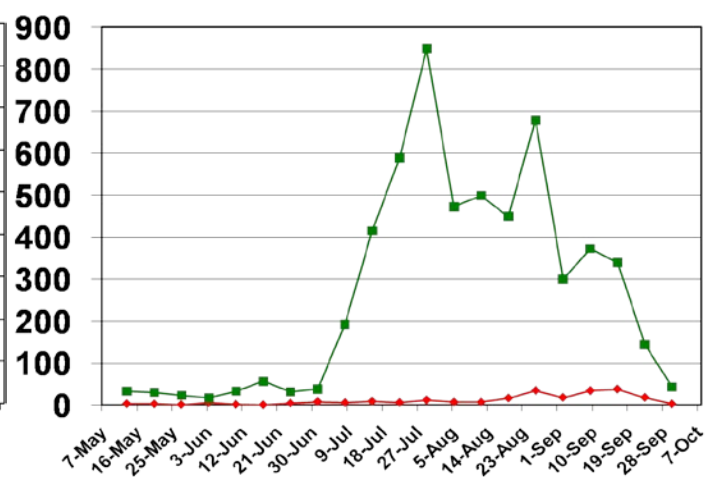
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Again, trap numbers are tracking about where they usually track, except that our June peak was much larger than 'normal' and was a little later this year. I expect that our big flight will be delayed this year by about a week, but it could be a big one. Our egg counts are up this week, so we will be treating some non-Bt cotton very soon. Because the bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>

Soybean Situation

As of 6 July 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 99% of the crop being planted, about equal to progress at this time last year at 99% and the 5-yr average of 98%. About 93% of soybeans have emerged, about equal to where we were last year at 91% and the 5-yr average of 90%. About 10% of soybeans have bloomed, ahead of last year's 3% and the 5-yr average of 6%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 47% good, 42% fair, 7% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Pest Alert: Bean Plataspid!

I reported a couple of weeks ago (Newsletter #5) about an invasive species from China and India that was found in Georgia late last year by the hundreds in kudzu and on homes seeking overwintering sites. This insect is closely related to stink bugs and is called the bean plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria*. This pest was found on soybeans in Georgia a few weeks ago and has also been found in kudzu and soybean fields in South Carolina in Anderson County very recently. The “epicenter” seems to be around the Athens, GA, area, but the insects are quickly spreading to other areas. ***The bean plataspid is now on soybeans and kudzu in SC, but it will feed on legumes in general.***

The pictures below (courtesy of Dr. Phillip Roberts, UGA) of this pest are alarming, to say the least. Dr. Roberts and his colleagues in GA were finding as many as 200+ per 25 sweeps around field edges, displaying a pronounced border effect. History has shown that invasive species tend to get out of control, so we had better make sure we are looking for these insects. We are looking into ways to approach controlling this pest. We will soon have some data from insecticide efficacy trials, and I will report the results ASAP. Hopefully we will obtain some information about what insecticides are most effective on this species and which ones might not work well or work at all.

If you are out and about and want to check patches of kudzu or soybean fields, please take GPS coordinates and note information about the presence or absence of these bugs in your area. If we start documenting now where these things are and are not, we will have information about how much they can spread. Please email that information to me. Be very careful when leaving an infested area because these insects can be transported very easily on your clothing and get into your vehicle. Because we do not know much about this pest, we want to minimize its spread – let’s not help these insects by unknowingly taking them to non-infested areas.



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The bean plataspid in vegetative soybeans.

Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

Pest Management Handbook - 2010

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

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The bean plataspid in vegetative soybeans. Notice that they are aggregating and feeding on the mainstems of these vegetative beans.

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/cotton.html>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/index.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist

Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>